

Table 3.3: Walking Aids (Percent)^{1,2}

Walking Aids	Total (N=1002)	Age Group			Disability Level		
		65-74 (N=388)	75-84 (N=311)	85+ (N=303)	Moderate ³ (N=343)	ADL Difficulty	
						Receives No Help (N=478)	Receives Help (N=181)
When you walk, do you . . . ?							
Use a cane	37.0	27.9	39.9	56.0	22.3	44.5	46.6
Use a walker	11.2	7.1	10.6	24.6	2.5	11.3	28.9
Reach out for or hold onto furniture or walls	41.0	36.7	40.3	55.6	24.9	46.7	58.6
Hold onto another person	32.3	27.6	31.4	48.2	19.4	33.8	54.7
Cannot walk	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.8	0.0	1.3	14.3
Do you use a wheelchair?	11.1	9.6	11.2	15.2	1.8	8.1	38.4
Do you . . . at home?							
Use a cane	19.3	12.2	21.2	34.8	9.0	22.2	32.0
Use a walker	9.2	5.8	8.4	21.7	1.7	8.7	26.5
Use a wheelchair	5.4	6.1	4.7	5.2	0.4	2.4	24.1
Reach out for or hold onto furniture or walls (when you walk)	38.4	33.8	38.3	52.1	24.1	43.7	53.4
Hold onto another person (when you walk)	6.2	4.8	6.4	9.9	2.5	3.6	21.4
Do you . . . outside your home?							
Use a cane	34.3	26.3	36.7	51.4	20.8	42.6	39.4
Use a walker	6.7	5.8	5.6	12.5	1.5	7.3	15.9
Use a wheelchair	9.0	8.3	8.2	13.4	1.4	7.0	30.6
Reach out for or hold onto furniture or walls (when you walk)	21.0	17.8	21.8	27.9	12.2	25.2	27.5
Hold onto another person (when you walk)	28.5	24.3	28.8	40.3	17.8	30.3	45.6
When you walk in the dark, do you (reach out for or) hold onto . . . ?							
The furniture or walls	40.3	38.0	42.0	42.4	38.4	41.6	40.5
Another person	7.0	5.6	8.4	7.3	6.6	5.1	13.4
Doesn't walk in dark	11.2	10.6	8.7	20.0	7.1	14.5	10.7
Cannot or does not walk across small room	7.0	5.6	7.6	9.4	0.1	4.9	27.5
When you shop, do you lean on an object such as a shopping cart?							
Yes	50.3	52.3	51.1	42.2	49.5	57.3	32.3
Doesn't shop or walk	20.5	14.6	18.4	43.3	8.6	15.6	58.5

(Women's Health and Aging Study, baseline interview, 1992-1995)

¹ All variables have less than 1% missing data. Results are based on non-missing data.

² Descriptive statistics are based on weighted data.

³ No ADL difficulty; disabled in two or more domains (see Chapter 1).